

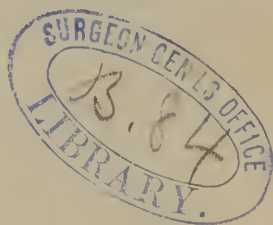
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VACCINATION:

**INDEX
MEDICUS**

ITS FALLACIES AND EVILS.

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BY

ROBERT A. GUNN, M. D.

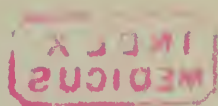


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VACCINATION:

ITS FALLACIES AND EVILS.

All fallacies classified as science must crumble before investigation. Such has been the fate of all the pretentious theories of earlier medicine, and such is the predestined end of the delusive hypotheses upon which are based many of the medical dogmas of to-day.

Of these dogmas, I believe the practice known as *vaccination* to be most absurd, and most pernicious. I do not believe that a single person has ever been protected from small-pox by it; while I *know* that many serious bodily evils and even deaths have resulted from its employment.

Although I had often seen bad results following vaccination, I never questioned the authority of the books regarding its prophylactic power, till my attention was specially directed to the subject in 1872. I had been appointed on a committee to prepare a report on "Small-pox and Vaccination" for a medical society to which I belonged. Since then, facts and figures have accumulated, in my hands, to such an extent as to compel me to come out squarely against vaccination.

HISTORY OF SMALL-POX.

There is a great diversity of opinion among medical writers regarding the antiquity of small-pox. Some assert that it was one of the plagues that so often devastated the oriental nations of antiquity, others affirm that it prevailed in China and Hindoostan, a thousand years before the Christian era, but that it was confined to very narrow limits, for centuries, till it finally spread into Europe about the beginning of the eighth century. Certain it is, however, that we have no description of any disease having the characteristics of small-pox till the latter half of the sixth century, when it is described as breaking out in Arabia, A. D. 571—the year in which Mahomet was born. It was widely disseminated by the wars and expeditions of the Arabs, and is believed to have entered Europe at the time of the overthrow

of the Gothic Monarchy in Spain by the Moors. Whatever its source or time of appearance it extended over Europe with fearful rapidity; and the loathsomeness of its nature and the terrible havoc to life attending it, filled the minds of the people with the greatest dread.

It is characteristically a contagious disease, and cannot be communicated except by actual contact with the person or the effluvia arising from the excretions of the afflicted. This fact was early recognized; and its spread into different countries was always traceable to direct importation. On this point Sir Thomas Watson, in his *Practice*, says: "While almost all men are prone to take the disorder, large portions of the world have remained for centuries entirely exempt from it, until at length it was imported; and that then it infallibly diffused and established itself in those parts."

Small-pox was unknown in the New World before the discovery by Columbus; but it was carried into St. Domingo in 1517. Three years later a negro covered with the pustules was landed on the Mexican coast, and from him the disease spread so that in a short time three millions and a half of people perished from it in Mexico alone. In the same way the disease was carried to Iceland in 1707, and to Greenland in 1733. Wherever it went devastation followed in its train; and so great was the popular dread that the people were willing to adopt any means that offered the slightest immunity against its ravages.

An examination of the statistics of small-pox proves that its greatest ravages occurred at the time when the commercial communications of the various nations began to be more general, and that the first ravages of the disease were greater than any subsequent ones. It would appear as an epidemic in various quarters of the globe and at various times, but it rarely proved as fatal as the first visitation. This was, no doubt, due to the fact that fear kept people from exposing themselves, and led to the practice of isolating the victims during the entire continuance of the disease.

As early as 1713, an English physician who had settled in Constantinople, wrote to a practitioner in London, concerning a new process, which was claimed to be successfully employed as a preventive against the ravages of small-pox. This process consisted in taking the virus of the small-pox and introducing it into a slight puncture in the skin, thus producing the disease in a modified form. This practice was called *inoculation*, and was introduced into England by Lady Mary Wortley Montague, wife of the British Ambassador at the Ottoman Court. She had her own children inoculated, and was so zealous in her work, that by the middle of the century, 1750, the practice had been extensively adopted in England, and had spread to

various countries of Europe, and even to America. Its advocates claimed that the ravages of the small-pox were thus greatly diminished, and the profession and public were as zealous in extending it, and advocating its efficacy, as they are to-day in urging vaccination.

After this latter practice had been introduced, however, it was asserted that inoculation added greatly to the number of small-pox cases, and that the mortality was not diminished, but rather increased. Laws were then passed in the different countries making inoculation a crime.

HISTORY OF VACCINATION.

In 1798, Edward Jenner, of Gloucestershire, England, called public attention to his discovery, that the virus of cow-pox introduced into the human body, was a prophylactic against small-pox. His attention had been directed to the subject several years previous, by hearing a milk-maid say that she could not take small-pox because she had had cow-pox. On examination, he ascertained that cows were often affected with a pustular eruption on the udder, and that the persons milking them were frequently affected by similar eruptions on their hands; and the popular belief was that persons thus affected were not susceptible to small-pox. He soon began to experiment, by inoculating persons with the lymph from the cow pox pustules, and as these persons did not have small-pox afterward, he thought he had proved the truth of the popular belief in the prophylactic power of the cow-pox. In order to convince those who doubted the value of his pretended discovery, he experimented, by inoculating with small-pox virus, those he had previously inoculated with cow-pox virus. Some of the persons thus experimented on did not have the small-pox, but unfortunately for his discovery, others fell victims to his experiments. He immediately *discovered* (?) that there were two kinds of eruptions met with on the udder of the cow, one of which was spurious cow-pox, and not protective against small-pox. The spurious was a spontaneous eruption peculiar to the cow, while the genuine was produced by contagion from the *grease* in the horse. This *grease*, passing through the cow, and then inoculated into the human body, Jenner declared, as early as 1798, to be a preventive of small-pox "*for life*." This is Jenner's *wonderful discovery*, which has since been known as vaccination.

On this subject, Jenner writes, as follows: "In this dairy country, (Gloucestershire,) a great number of cows is kept, and the office of milking is performed, indiscriminately, by men and maid servants. One of the former having applied dressings to the heels of a horse affected

with *the grease*, incautiously milked the cows, with some particles of the infectious matter adhering to his fingers. The disease thus communicated to the cows, and from the cows to the dairy-maids, spread through the farm until most of the domestics and the cattle feel its unpleasant consequences. This disease has obtained the name of cow-pox." In describing the disorder thus contracted, he further says: "Inflamed spots begin to appear on the hands, sometimes on the wrists, which quickly run on to suppuration. Absorption takes place and tumors appear in each axilla. The system becomes affected, the pulse is quickened, and shiverings, with general lassitude, and pains about the loins and limbs, with vomiting, come on. The head is painful and the patient is every now and then affected with delirium. These symptoms generally continue from one day to three or four, leaving ulcerated sores about the hands, which commonly heal slowly, frequently becoming phagedenic, like those from whence they sprung. The lips, eyelids, nostrils, and other parts of the body are sometimes affected with sores. No eruptions on the skin have followed the decline of the feverish symptoms in any instance that has come under my inspection, one only excepted. Thus the disease makes its progress from the horse to the nipple of the cow, and from the cow to the human subject. * * * * What renders the cow-pox virus so extremely singular is, that the person who has been thus affected is *for ever after secure from the infection of the small-pox.*"

Of the pustular sores that appear spontaneously on the nipples of cows, he says: "This disease is not to be considered as similar in any respect to that of which I am treating, as it is incapable of producing any specific effect on the human constitution." Both of these points are reiterated again and again in his writings, so there can be no misunderstanding the source from which he derived his virus for what he called effective vaccination.

After he had settled this point satisfactorily to himself, reports came to him that even persons affected with the true cow-pox had not been protected from small-pox. He then made the assertion, that it was only in a certain state of the pustule that virus was afforded capable of imparting to the constitution its protecting power; and that matter taken after this period might excite a local disease, but not of such a sort as to render the individual proof against the effects of variolous contagion. Then, he pretended, that if kept a few days, the virus underwent decomposition, and was thus rendered incapable of affording protection against small-pox. Thus, as the Arabian prophet had new revelations to meet every unexpected exigency, so Jenner advanced a new theory every time that vaccination was shown to be a failure.

For a time Jenner's discovery was bitterly opposed by the profession ; and even some of those who adopted it, claimed that inoculation directly from the *grease* of the horse, into the human body was as protective as that which passed through the cow. Then came the claim that the virus taken from the person inoculated with the cow-pox, could be used to protect other persons ; and, as the symptoms thus produced were less severe than direct inoculation from the cow, this method of vaccination soon became the prevailing one. At first, however, it was considered necessary to have recourse to the cow for a fresh supply of virus, every few years ; but even this was soon regarded as unnecessary, and so the practice of vaccination from arm to arm has been almost universally relied upon as a preventive of small-pox, for half a century.

From England, vaccination was introduced into the various countries of Europe, crossed the Atlantic to America, and even found its way to the jungles of Asia and to the barbarous tribes of Africa.

The movement took hold of the popular mind, and the medical profession accepted it on the same principle that they discontinued blood-letting. Then compulsory vaccination laws were passed in many of the countries of Europe, and the practice has come down to us as "*the grandest discovery of modern times.*"

At first, all agreed with Jenner, that one vaccination protected a person for life, against small-pox ; this, however, was soon found to be untrue. Then, one thorough vaccination in infancy and one after puberty, were deemed necessary. This also proved a delusion. Its advocates next advised the practice to be repeated at maturity, and finally it was thought necessary to assure perfect immunity, that vaccination should be repeated every three or four years.

This is the position occupied by most of the profession at the present day, although even here there is a marked difference of opinion among the so-called best authorities.

In the *London Lancet* of March 24th, '77, the editor writes as follows : " After successful vaccination in infancy, re-vaccination is needed only once. The second operation should, if practicable, be performed at the age of puberty, or, there being immediate danger of small-pox, at the age of twelve. Re-vaccination at an earlier age is futile. Repeated re-vaccinations are foolish. Re-vaccination, when successful, is needed once only."

Vaccination as performed in different countries varies very materially, and all the methods are in conflict with the theories of Jenner.

" Does Vaccination protect against Small-pox ?" I claim that it does not. The whole theory is founded on assumption, contrary to common sense, and entirely opposed to all the known principles of physiology.

Had Jenner been a conscientious searcher after truth, he never would have asserted, six years after he commenced his investigations, that the vaccine disease "for ever after secured against the infection of small-pox." Had he been a real scientist he would never have invented new theories to account for every failure in the results of his investigations, at least, till a sufficient number of years had elapsed to prove the general truth of his assertions. Had he discovered any actual scientific truth, it would have come down to us precisely as he gave it to the public in 1798.

Physiology teaches us that all poisons are either eliminated from the body, or so interfere with the functions and tissues as to produce disease or death. When zymatic poisons, such as those of small-pox, scarlet fever, cholera, &c., are introduced into the system, the normal functions are interfered with, and thus we have a condition that is called disease. A conflict goes on between the vital forces and the poison, and one or the other must succumb. If the vitality of the patient is sufficiently strong, or in other words, if the patient is healthy and robust, the poison is eliminated, and the body is left with its component parts in the same condition as before its introduction. If on the other hand, there is not sufficient vitality, the poison gains the ascendancy and the patient dies. Poisons such as syphilitic may remain in the system for a long time, but when they do they manifest themselves by abnormal conditions of the various tissues, which result from the efforts of nature to throw off the morbid influence.

Persons who are exposed to the contagion of small-pox, when in a debilitated condition are liable to take the disease, while those who are strong and robust may escape entirely or have it lightly; and the same is true of all other diseases. When a specific virus is introduced into the body by inoculation, it is more apt to affect the system; but even here some escape infection altogether, others are slightly affected, while some suffer severely in consequence. Those who recover throw off the poison entirely, and may be similarly affected at any time afterward, provided they are exposed to the infection while in a debilitated condition. This fact has been so often demonstrated by persons having scarlet fever, measles, cholera, diphtheria and small-pox, two and three times, that its truth cannot be questioned. Now what is true of these diseases must also be true of the vaccine disease, and it is for the same reason that vaccination may be repeatedly performed on the same person, and be found to take each time. Then I ask, is it reasonable to suppose that vaccination can protect against small-pox, when it cannot protect against itself, and when one attack of small-pox cannot protect against another. The very first person Jenner vaccinated and

pronounced safe "for life" against small-pox, afterward took the disease and died from it, and ever since that, the history of the subject proves that such results are so frequent, that the value of vaccination as a prophylactic against small-pox is completely disproved.

But we are told, that vaccination has arrested the fearful ravages of small-pox, and reduced its mortality to almost nothing. We have been told over and over again that small-pox had been stamped out in different localities, by efficient vaccination; and after it had again appeared the cry came, "the people are not half vaccinated."

Now what is the truth of this matter? It is simply this—that the first visitations of all epidemics are more fatal than subsequent ones.

The plagues that formerly devastated the Eastern world were less severe with each visitation, till now they have entirely disappeared. Those that swept over Europe up to the beginning of the eighteenth century also became less fatal with each return, till now they are unknown. Cholera, which, at one time, carried panic and death to almost every door, can now hardly gain a foothold in any civilized country. And small-pox too, had gradually become less prevalent, and less fatal, till in Jenner's time it appeared in a very mild form and attended with but little mortality. To what can we attribute the decline of these diseases? I suppose, had Jenner pretended that vaccination was prophylactic against all, it would be so asserted to-day; but this change occurred in some of them before Jenner's time and he cannot even claim the diminution of small-pox as depending on a discovery that had not then been promulgated. No! the only pretense that can be advanced to account for this decreased mortality is that civilization brought knowledge of hygienic and quarantine advantages; and as these measures were adopted the diseases declined.

In 1864, a report was published in England, in which tables were compiled to prove the value of vaccination. They commenced with the year 1838, which was before the compulsory vaccination laws were passed, and ended in 1861. The unfairness of their figures becomes apparent when it is known that small-pox prevailed more in 1838 than any time during the century, and then no returns are given for the years 1843-44-45-46, because epidemics prevailed and the deaths had increased in those years.

The following is a summary of the table:

For the years 1838, '39 and '40, the annual average death-rate was 11,944; before the compulsory vaccination act was passed. From 1841 to 1853, vaccination was provided gratuitously but was not obligatory, and the average annual death-rate was 5,221, not including the epidemics of 1843 to '46, which are omitted from the reports. From 1854

to '61, inclusive, vaccination was obligatory, and the annual average death rate was 3,240. Here they stopped and claimed for vaccination the difference in the annual death-rate, between 11,944, and 3,240. In the last year included in their table the number of deaths was 1,320. In 1862, which is omitted from the table, it was 1,628; in 1863, 5,964; in 1864, 7,684; and in 1865, 6,411; and again in 1871, the deaths were 7,876 in London alone. Now if vaccination reduced the death-rate from 16,268 in 1838, to 1,320 in 1861, what increased the death rate so much in the four succeeding years, and in 1871?

Again, the statistics from Sweden, "the best vaccinated country in the world," show that in 1838, there were 1,805 deaths from small-pox, and in 1839, 1,934. From this they fell to 9, 6, 6 and 2, in 1843-4-5 and 6, respectively, under compulsory vaccination, and the cry came, "small-pox has been stamped out of Sweden by vaccination." But Lo! in 1850, there were 1,376 deaths; in 1851, 2,488, (the greatest mortality of the century), and 1852, 1,534, all of whom were vaccinated persons.

In the London small-pox hospitals, during the sixteen years prior to 1851, the proportion of vaccinated cases to total admissions was fifty-three per cent.; in 1851-2, sixty-six per cent.; 1854-5-6, seventy-one per cent.; 1859-60, seventy-eight per cent.; 1861-66, eighty-one per cent.; and in 1868, eighty-four per cent.

From the *London Lancet*, the strongest advocate of the efficacy of vaccination published, I have gleaned the following facts relative to the epidemic of small-pox that prevailed in England during 1875 and 1876.

On May 27th, 1875, nineteen new cases of small-pox were admitted to the Stockwell hospital of London, of which thirteen were vaccinated, and six unvaccinated; on September 20th, 1875, there were thirty-six patients in hospital, of which thirty-one were vaccinated and five unvaccinated.

At the Metropolitan Asylum hospitals of London, during the first six months of 1876, there were one hundred and sixty-eight patients admitted, of which one hundred and thirty-four were vaccinated and thirty-four unvaccinated. On July 8th, there were seventy cases in Stockwell hospital, thirty-eight vaccinated, and thirty-two unvaccinated. On September 1st, three hundred and seventy-eight cases had been reported for the year, in the London hospitals, eighty per cent. of which had been vaccinated. For the week ending September 8th, eleven fatal cases were reported in London, four of which were unvaccinated. For the week ending September 30, sixty-two cases were admitted into two hospitals, forty-five of which were vaccinated and seventeen unvaccinated.

In the *Lancet* of October 14th, 1876, Dr. Wilkinson reports seventy-five cases that occurred in his practice between September 5th and October 7th, of which fifty-nine had been vaccinated and sixteen unvaccinated.

From October, 1876, till March, 1877, from one hundred to two hundred and fifty new cases have been reported every week in England, but no further mention is made of the proportion of vaccinated to unvaccinated cases.

For the week ending February 17th, 1877, however, seventy-two deaths are reported in London alone, twenty-eight of which are returned as unvaccinated, seventeen as vaccinated, and twenty-seven as "not stated" as regards vaccination. For the week ending February 24th, there were one hundred and four deaths in London; forty-two unvaccinated, twenty-five vaccinated, and thirty-seven not stated. During the week ending March 3d, eighty-four died from small-pox in London, of which thirty-seven were unvaccinated, twenty-three vaccinated, and twenty-four not stated. During the week ending March 17th, one hundred deaths occurred, forty-two of unvaccinated, thirty of vaccinated, and twenty-eight not stated.

From these returns, the advocates of vaccination insist, that more unvaccinated persons die from small pox than vaccinated; but the truth is, that all those spoken of as *not stated*, are vaccinated cases, and thus the fatal cases are about three vaccinated to one unvaccinated.

During the last epidemic in England, if we may be allowed to make a rough estimate, based on the reports of the *London Lancet*, there have been at least 20,000 cases of small-pox, eighty-five per cent. of which had been pronounced protected by vaccination; and of these not less than five thousand have died. In March, 1877, when I collected these facts, there were about one thousand patients in the London small-pox hospitals, and hundreds who could not gain admission were scattered throughout the city.

This, and much more that I could present, if space permitted, comes to us from countries where they have boasted that small-pox had been stamped out by vaccination. In our own country the results are equally unsatisfactory, although statistics are not so accessible.

In New York and Brooklyn, repeated endeavors have been made to stamp out small-pox by thorough and systematic vaccination.

It has been made compulsory in our schools; vaccinators have gone from house to house to vaccinate old and young, and the profession have enjoined the people to have recourse to repeated re-vaccination, and yet small-pox prevails; and the majority who suffer from it have been vaccinated.

In 1872 and 1873, while secretary of the National Medical Association, I corresponded with over two hundred medical men, and questioned them on the value of vaccination in their experience. The aggregate number of small-pox cases seen by these physicians was 6,423; of which 4,020 had been vaccinated, and 3,008 of these re-vaccinated. In my own practice, I have seen twenty cases of small-pox, of which fifteen had been vaccinated, and eleven of these re-vaccinated. Of my own cases, four died, three of whom had been vaccinated, and one of the three re-vaccinated.

I must now pass on to another claim of the advocates of vaccination.

After they were forced to abandon the ground that vaccination protected against small-pox for life, they claimed that when vaccinated persons did take the disease, it was only in a mild form. This was disproved, even in the time of Jenner, by the death, from small-pox, of persons who had been vaccinated, and similar cases have occurred in every small-pox epidemic down to the present day. But even if such cases did not occur, it would prove nothing. All diseases attack persons with different degrees of severity; the strong and robust being slightly affected, while the weakly suffer severely. One child is very sick with measles, while another in the same family may have the disease so slightly as not to affect it in the least; one may die from scarlet fever, while another may only be slightly indisposed for a few days; one may have the whooping-cough for a week or two, while another may suffer from it for months. One person may die from cholera in a few hours, while another may have it severely, and yet recover; and one may feel slightly indisposed from malarial influences, while another may be a great sufferer for months, from the same cause. This being true, is it reasonable to suppose that small-pox should be an exception to the general rule, and only those who have been vaccinated, have it lightly. Certainly not; and, besides, the facts prove that it is the weakly who die from small-pox, whether they have been vaccinated or not. And, besides, it is the rule not to vaccinate delicate, sickly children, and when such take small pox they are more liable to die, and the want of vaccination is assigned as the sole cause of the disease.

One more point under this head and I shall pass on. I claim that the prophylaxis of vaccination alone has never been tested. Ever since its introduction, the most rigid quarantine regulations have been enforced in all small-pox cases, and from the very nature of the disease, it must be admitted, that such measures, of themselves, are calculated to prevent its spread, while superior knowledge enables physicians to treat it more successfully than formerly. In this and all large cities,

contagious diseases, including small-pox, prevail most extensively and fatally in the low-lying, badly-drained and ventilated, filthy, and densely populated districts, where contagion cannot be prevented; and in these districts, too, vaccination has been almost universally performed, because it has been done without charge.

If vaccination and re-vaccination will certainly prevent small-pox, why do its advocates insist on the enforcement of quarantine regulations. Oh! they say, to prevent those who are not vaccinated from being exposed. I ask, if they are the only ones who would suffer; would it not be well to compel them to submit to vaccination in this way. The truth is, they are afraid to rely, for protection, on the very practice they are so anxious to make the world believe, will stamp out small-pox if the people only submit to it.

THE EVILS OF VACCINATION.

Even if there was any evidence to prove that vaccination was a prophylactic against small-pox, the appalling evils that have been and are still produced by it are sufficient to condemn the practice as a crime.

Every physician of experience has met with numerous cases of cutaneous eruptions, erysipelas, and syphilis, which were directly traceable to vaccination, and if these could all be collected and presented in one report, they would form a more terrible picture than the worst that has ever been drawn to portray the horrors of small-pox.

In 1872, I condensed into a report, the following summary of evidence (under oath), taken by a committee of the British House of Commons, in 1871, on this subject. It speaks for itself:

DR. COLLINS testifies: "After twenty years' experience as a vaccinator, during six or seven small-pox epidemics, I have ceased to vaccinate ten or twelve years; and gave up at least £500 sterling a year by so doing. I consider vaccination not only useless, but an evil. Have often seen children with syphilitic eruptions, after vaccination, whose parents were free from any taint. Have seen children, hitherto healthy, with no trace of struma, after vaccination assume a scrofulous character, with every characteristic of a strumous habit. Erysipelas and phlegmanous ulcers are also by no means uncommon after vaccination. In a particular case I vaccinated an apparently healthy child with lymph from the national vaccine establishment, and on the eighth day, from a true Jennerian vesicle on its arm, I, at the request of the parents, friends of the first, vaccinated another healthy child; and three weeks after both children were brought to me, having decided syphilitic symptoms; when, on examination, it was found that the

father of the first child had constitutional syphilis. The parents of the second child were perfectly healthy, but the syphilis had been conveyed to it by the vaccine lymph taken from the other. Was once consulted by some young ladies who had been vaccinated from their brother, who had been suckled by a syphilitic nurse, and, on being discovered, it was found that her own child had the usual syphilitic symptoms."

DR. PEARCE.—"I have given special attention to the subject of vaccination for eighteen years. Returns show a large increase of consumption. Knew a lady and her elder brother, unvaccinated, the only survivors of ten children, the rest having been vaccinated, five of whom died in childhood, and the remaining three at from fifteen to eighteen, of consumption. The mother always attributed the death of her eight children to vaccination. The ancestors on both sides for generations were all healthy country people. There was no defect of nutrition, no re-breathed air of workshops. When vaccinating, as I formerly did extensively, I was astonished to find that I had unwittingly transmitted syphilis from lymph supplied by the Jennerian Institution; I had proved that no taint existed in the parents; had twenty or twenty-four such cases within four years at Northampton."

Referring to the 540 practitioners who are reported to have taken grounds against his position, he says: "They are chiefly surgeons of hospitals, who perhaps have never vaccinated or been in general practice; the answers of such men are of no value." Mr. Whitehead, of Manchester, reports several instances of syphilitic taint, transmitted from a true Jennerian vesicle. This is positive evidence; but men may say that they never have seen what they never had an opportunity of seeing. Dr. Ballard has stated that a true Jennerian vesicle cannot be distinguished from a vesicle containing syphilis.

DR. J. J. GARTH WILKINSON testifies: "I have vaccinated to within the last five years without thinking about it. Vaccination is so entirely *secundem artem*, the large majority cannot think about it. We are continually coming upon venerable fallacies; but on this question prestige and interest prevent investigation. Six positive cases are worth 10,000 negatives, which go for nothing." Dr. Siljestrom, a man of great scientific eminence, and a legislator in Sweden, says: "I have always felt that if vaccination does not stand against small-pox it is *nil*; if it does so stand, millions to one but what it imparts other and more powerful disorders into the system. My own coachman's child took erysipelas concurrently with vaccination, and both the child and its mother, who was nursing it, who had had small-pox, died of the erysipelas. Knew a case of an eminent literary man

crippled with a skin affection, a kind of eczema of the leg, ever since being re-vaccinated four years since. Have often, almost daily, heard parents say, "my children have never been the same since they were vaccinated."

MR. G. S. GIBSON testifies: "I attribute the large increase in infant mortality to their being poisoned in the first year of life, in a greater proportion than formerly, by vaccination. Constitutional diseases may be perpetuated in the same way, and the foundation laid for tubercular disease of some kind."

PROF. RICORD says in a French Medical Journal, of March 10th, 1865: "*At first I repulsed the idea that syphilis could be transmitted by vaccination, but to-day I hesitate no more to proclaim the reality.*"

MR. EMERY testifies: "I have seen much suffering, ulcerous sores, &c., from vaccination. Vaccination is matter taken from the cow, put into the arm, and from arm to arm, for thirty years, and all manner of dirt is scraped out of one person's arm and put into another. I had a healthy child, eleven weeks old, vaccinated in May, 1869. On the ninth day it became very ill, the arm, body, and legs swollen, and turned red and green, having no rest night or day till its death, a month after. Have since seen one hundred to one hundred and fifty healthy children suffering, immediately, after vaccination, and parents who have lost their children by it."

MR. COVINGTON mentions the case of a healthy child, twelve months old, in whom syphilitic appearances showed themselves five weeks after vaccination. His own child was taken ill immediately after vaccination, and suffered for nine months, and afterwards from abscesses, etc., for four years. In a third case, a child of four months, immediately broke out with sores, and died in the tenth month. Believes vaccination conveys consumption, syphilis, and many other like diseases.

MR. ADISON deposes: "That on the 8th day of September, 1870, he had a sound, healthy child, three months old, vaccinated against his will, to obey the laws; three days after it broke out in a fearful rash, which continued to increase for eight weeks, when it died."

REV. HUME ROTHERY testifies: "I had a healthy child which suffered from a long series of very large boils, coming on three months after vaccination, which I believe to be the cause. Another case, a healthy child, nine months old when vaccinated, was afterwards afflicted with sore eyes for many years, and they are still weak; it being afterwards found that sore eyes prevailed in the family from which she was vaccinated. A third case, a fortnight after vaccination, (at nine months old,) became covered with an offensive eruption all over the

body, is now three years old, and has seldom since been free from sores and scabs ; her elder brother, not vaccinated, father and mother, and families are remarkably healthy. A fourth case, now four years old, healthy before vaccination, has never since been so ; nine months afterwards foul sores broke out, which continued, and appear likely to continue ; there is a hole in one hand, and the foot probably crippled for life. In a fifth case, vaccinated when a babe, the family all perfectly healthy, cancer appeared on the chin, at eighteen months old, and she lost the left breast from cancer at thirteen. A sixth case, exceedingly well before vaccination, was never well afterward. Its flesh rotted on the slightest scratch of a pin, and now and then broke out in scales and sores ; it died when twenty months old. Six other children were vaccinated from this child, not one of whom survived. A seventh case, a healthy baby before vaccination, became ever after an indescribable sufferer, and died at nearly eight, his body being literally rotten ; father, mother, and five other children all remarkably healthy. In an eighth case, a healthy boy, four months old, was vaccinated ; three months afterwards the arm began to break out, the head was one mass of sores, which continued for twelve months ; believe it was syphilis ; there had never been any disease in parents' families. Could mention a considerable number of other cases, eight—all of deaths—from Rochdale ; twelve from Smallbridge, many others from Scotland ; all attested before magistrates, with the understanding that they were to be laid before this committee. Could mention a number of other cases, but the sufferers are afraid to come forward. A child may appear healthy, but no one can say where a latent taint exists. Dr. Nicholson, a pro-vaccinator, writes : If a case can be made out against vaccination, by all means let the law be repealed :” whilst Dr. Blanc, also a vaccinator, says : “Persons who deny such transmission are greater foes to vaccination than its declared adversaries.”

MR. SIMON testifies : “There is not the least doubt that syphilis has, on several occasions been communicated on the continent by what was purported to be vaccination. Lymph ought not to be taken from a subject who can be reasonably supposed syphilitic. A vaccinator should assume that such would convey syphilis. Practically, we should expect lymph taken from a syphilitic child would be syphilitic, as the safe side to err on, without attaching importance to negative experiments.”

DR. BAKEWELL testifies : “There is a very strong opinion among medical men in the West Indies that leprosy has been communicated by vaccination. They often apply to me for lymph from England, though there would be an equal chance of English lymph being con-

taminated by syphilis; have seen several cases of leprosy where vaccination seemed to be the only explanation; have a case now, a child from India, a leper, both parents being English; saw another, a creole of Trinidad, also of English parents. Sir Ranald Martin agreed with me that the leprosy arose from vaccination. Have seen several cases of leprosy resulting from vaccination, arrived at the conclusion with reluctance in the face of difficulties. Have no doubt death resulted from syphilis, produced by vaccination, in the Rivalta cases. There are two hundred and fifty-eight such cases mentioned by Lancereaux as having occurred in France, Italy, and Germany. Think there are others of which we have no knowledge."

MR. HUTCHINSON testifies: "I was asked by the medical man to examine into the communication of syphilis to several adult servants and shopmen who were re-vaccinated, on the 7th of February last, from one child, lent to the operator from a public vaccinating station. Of thirteen so vaccinated whom I saw on the fourth or fifth of April, eleven had on their arms sores characteristic of syphilis—the primary sore of syphilitic contagion; the two who escaped were the first vaccinated. A few days later saw the child (six months old), from whom the lymph was taken, and though it appeared in good health, I should have no doubt it was the subject of inherited syphilis; it had an eruption on the body, then very slight indeed, and probably not present at the time of vaccination."

DR. WM. COLLINS, of London, concludes an article on this subject, in these words: "I am bound to admit that I have no faith in vaccination, nay, I look upon it with the greatest disgust, and firmly believe that it is often the medium of conveying many filthy and loathsome diseases from one child to another, and it is no protection from small-pox. Indeed, I consider we are now living in the Jennerian epoch for the slaughter of the *innocents*, and the unthinking portion of the population."

The *Lancet* of Nov. 16th, 1861, contained an account of the inoculation of 46 children with syphilis, conveyed by means of vaccination. And in 1866, thirteen children were similarly affected by vaccination from a child, who had been vaccinated with lymph obtained from the medical authorities. On the same subject the *Lancet* of Jan., 1866, says: "This highly important subject has been fully treated by the *Siglo Medica*, a Spanish medical paper. In this article we find statistical tables of value. The author, in collecting data respecting instances of syphilitic contamination through the vaccine virus, shows that the disease was communicated in 224 out of 314 vaccinations."

Volume twelve of the *Union Medicale*, a French magazine, contains

a report of the celebrated Rivalta cases in Italy in 1861. In these cases 46 children were vaccinated with virus from an infant that seemed healthy, and seventeen were afterward vaccinated from one of the children of the first series, and of these forty-four were affected with syphilis, and they in turn propagated the infection to their mothers and nurses. Dr. Henry Lee, a great authority in syphilis stated after investigation, that he could come to no other conclusion but that the disease was communicated by vaccination in the Rivalta cases.

The *Lancet* has reported during the last few weeks, ten deaths from erysipelas following vaccination; and this disease is known to be a common sequel of vaccination, while numerous deaths are annually reported as the direct results of this inflammation.

Similar cases have been reported from almost every part of the United States, and the individual testimony of physicians in private practice, would fill many volumes without exhausting the horrors that have been developed by vaccination.

PROF. JOSEPH JONES, of Nashville, Tennessee, of the late Confederate army, published in 1867 a pamphlet of 164 pages, in which he gives the sworn testimony of many prominent physicians in the Southern states, proving beyond doubt, that many hundreds of soldiers had died from syphilis and gangrene caused by vaccination.

Again, we find upon investigation, that many persons object to vaccination on the ground that it impairs the general health, and induces scarlet fever, measles, dysentery, consumption, &c. All who hold this belief have arrived at these conclusions after careful investigation.

That disease is directly communicated by vaccination, has, I think, been fully proven; and, with the investigations that have been made, we cannot but admit that the seeds of consumption may be sown, which may soon ripen and carry off its victim.

In short, the conveying to the system of such taints as I have already mentioned, must inevitably, reduce the vital powers, and predispose the sufferer to an infinite variety of disorders. With these facts before us we are often asked why so many have upheld vaccination.

It may be replied that there is a vaccination ring in England, receiving millions of the public money. It is their interest to favor the practice at all hazards and to falsify statistics in order to conceal its failures and evils. There are also armies of public vaccinators in every large city all over Europe, who are supported from the public treasury, and every practitioner who does not oppose the practice, derives a considerable yearly income from its continuance. On the other hand

there are thousands of medical men, who believe in vaccination, because they have been taught to do so. Indeed I have found but very few, who have ever given it a moment's thought. They have performed vaccination because it was the fashion and they were paid for it. They have supposed that vaccination would prevent small-pox, and have never dreamed of making any investigation for themselves.

THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF HEALTH.

It was positively declared by the Metropolitan Board of Health, of the City of New York, in 1872, that the humanized vaccine lymph had never conveyed diseases from one person to another. They were actually forced to abandon that position in less than three years. A bureau was then established in the department for the purpose of supplying bovine virus, and all physicians in the city were notified that they should adopt it in their practice. They asserted that this virus was the genuine vaccine lymph, obtained in France from pustules spontaneously formed on the udders of cattle.

Nevertheless it should be borne in mind that this virus has been inefficient in England and has proved a failure in France. Jenner himself pronounced it utterly useless as a protection against small-pox. If the Health Boards are in quest of the pure Jennerian virus they should resort to the pestiferous stables where horses are to be found with heels covered with loathsome ulcers. From these are obtained their boasted prophylactic.

Even in free America this infantile contamination is becoming compulsory. No child is allowed to attend public school in our cities, without being vaccinated, and the operation is often performed in the school room without the knowledge or consent of the parents.

Many healthy children have thus been rendered invalids for life. A case is now pending against the Board of Health of this city, where a child was so vaccinated. The result was that the patient was shortly after afflicted with a distressing cutaneous eruption, followed by abscesses and a total destruction of health.

The father first brought a suit against the corporation of the city. He was however non-suited, on the ground that the Metropolitan Board of Health had committed the offense. That board derived its jurisdiction from the Legislature directly, and was solely responsible. He then instituted proceedings against the Board of Health. The trial was adjourned from time to time till the Tweed charter terminated the existence of that body. The present Health Department succeeded to its functions. The case now being called for trial a non-suit was ordered on the ground that the former board had ceased to exist,

and the new department being a part of the municipal government could not properly be made the defendant in such an action. A third suit was begun this time against the city itself, the issue of which is very uncertain.

Our more enlightened physicians are generally opposed to vaccination. If they practice it, they do so reluctantly, and on the responsibility of the persons requiring it to be done. The number of such practitioners is increasing. For my own part since the year 1872, I have positively refused to vaccinate, however urgently requested.

In conclusion I would appeal to the profession to give this whole matter a candid and thorough investigation. Shall we support a fallacy that is ready to crumble beneath investigation? Shall we enforce a practice that is opposed by the leading minds of the age? Shall we contaminate the blood of the next generation as our own has been? These are questions to be weighed carefully, decided wisely, and acted on conscientiously and fearlessly.